DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

INDEX BUREAU
767.90 G/1

SEE 767.91/42 FOR # 1101

FROM Turkey (Grew) DATED July 26, 1930.
TO NAME

1—1127 ...

REGARDING: the outbreak of an uprising along the Turco-Iraqi frontier made up of Kurdish, Assyrian, and Armenian elements.

mb/

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.90G/2

SEE 890g.001-Feisal/18 FOR #1302

FROM Turkey (Grew) DATED July 13,1931.

TO NAME

1—1172

REGARDING: Conversations between King Feisal of Iraq and the President of Turkey regarding frontier incidents, negotiations for treaties of commerce and of establishment, and question of Turkey's treaty rights to 10% royalties in Iraquian oil for a period of 25 years.

km

Istanbul, July 13, 1931.

No. 1302

CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

The King of Iraq has recently visited Turkey, spending three days from July 6 to 8 in Ankara and some further time in Istanbul. This is the second visit of a chief of state to Turkey since the establishment of the Republic, the first to break the ice having been the unfortunate King Amanullah of Afghanistan. The usual round of official dinners and entertainments took place at the capital, with the diplomatic corps largely present. Most of the chiefs of mission in Istanbul or settled in cool and comfortable summer quarters on the Bosphorus grumbled but went, and those who did not go were openly criticised by the Turks. The

grumbling

grumbling increased progressively with the heat as the slow summer train crawled into the Anatolian desert, for the average diplomat would not be happy if he didn't have something to grumble about. I suppose I must be an average diplomat because I went and grumbled too.

The visit of King Feisal to Turkey appears to have been rather a normal courtesy call on his adjacent neighbor, the Gazi, than to have been attended by any particular political significance. He was on his way to take a cure in Switzerland and this offered a favorable occasion for the visit which, I am informed, was originally suggested to the King by the Turkish Minister in Baghdad. And since the visit offered a good opportunity to discuss various questions pending between the two countries, the King arranged that his Prime Minister, Nouri Pasha, should meet him here on the latter's return from an absence in Europe. The following questions, I am informed, were touched upon in the conversations which took place.

(1) A push was given by the King to the negotiations for treaties of commerce and of establishment which are now pending between the two countries.

(2) Various minor frontier incidents were discussed with a view to settlement.

(3) Not long ago, as the Department is aware, the last of the important Kurdish chieftains, Sheik Mahmoud, was captured and brought to terms with the Iraquian Government, so that apart from sporadic raids across the frontier by

independent

independent brigands, the general Kurdish problem appears to be settled for the present so far as Iraq is concerned. But it was desirable for both parties, Iraq and Turkey, to come to a mutual understanding with regard to future policy concerning the whole Kurdish problem. This understanding, I am informed, has been advanced by the conversations held in Ankara in connection with the King's visit. While the details of these conversations are not available, I believe that they center about an undertaking that neither country will in future incite the Kurds to cross the frontier of the other and that proper policing of the frontier will be carried out by both Governments in a spirit of mutual cooperation.

(4) The question of Turkey's treaty rights to 10% royalties on Iraquian oil for a period of twenty-five years was likewise broached. The Turks maintain that since there has been delay in producing the oil, the twenty-five years should begin to run not from the date of ratification of the original treaty in 1926 but from the date of the agreement concluded recently between the Government of Iraq and the Iraq Petroleum Company by which the latter is pledged to pay a sum of Lstg. 400,000 annually into the Iraquian treasury. The Turks, it appears, claim 10% of this sum annually and they also demand a further adjustment of the royalties owing to the fact that the extent of territory covered by the original treaty which envisaged the exploitation of oil throughout all of Iraq by the Turkish Petroleum Company, has been

considerably

considerably restricted by the recent agreement above referred to. These demands, I am advised, were discussed in the recent conversations in Ankara and are being sympathetically considered by the Government of Iraq.

Apart from the specific topics touched upon, I am informed by my British colleague, who has had several long talks with King Feisal, that the latter was deeply impressed by the warm and apparently sincere welcome which he met from the Turks, and he states that it has been extremely helpful to him to get this first-hand impression of Turkey's sensible foreign policy - the desire to cultivate the most friendly relations with other countries. He, the King, is convinced from his observations that Turkey genuinely desires peace with the world and wishes to avoid taking part in foreign groupments or in any other political manoeuvre which might lead her into discord or conflict with other nations. He leaves Turkey with the firm conviction that she is satisfied with her present boundaries, that she does not covet other territory and that, above all, she wishes to live and let live and to enjoy a long era of peace in which she can work out her domestic problems and consolidate her economic and financial position.

Secondly, the King appears to have been impressed and somewhat surprised by the improvement of British prestige in Turkey, an impression which, according to Sir George Clerk, is going to be of material value to the British government in Iraq. And finally, King Feisal was surprised to find that the Gazi cherishes anything but friendly sentiments towards

Soviet

Soviet Russia. The Gazi, according to my informant, told the King that he had realized from the days of the Turco-Greek War and the establishment of the Republic how much they owed to Soviet Russia for the assistance which she had rendered; Turkey had wished to repay this assistance with genuine friendship and had thought that the two countries were going to be able to cooperate in complete harmony. This, however, had been far from the case; unfriendly acts on the part of Russia were continually occurring and he, the Gazi, had found that it was quite impossible to remain in complete harmony with that country for long.

No information has come to me as to whether the question of a future Syrian Kingdom, with King Feisal's son as a candidate for the throne, was touched upon. In the absence of comment on this subject, it seems probable that if the point was discussed at all, it was dealt with in the strictest confidence.

It will be decidedly interesting to see whether the Gazi returns King Feisal's visit in due course, and whether this may lead eventually to a series of visits between Near Eastern chiefs of state.

Respectfully yours,

Joseph C. Grew.

800
JCG/rs

COPY SENT E. I. C. PARIS

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 890g.00/169 FOR #95

FROM Iraq (Sloan) DATED Dec. 16,1931

TO NAME 1—1127

REGARDING: Treaty of commerce and bon voisinage between Turkey and Iraq.
Nuri Pasha, Prime Minister, has departed for Damascus and Angora to conclude a --.

767.90G/3

leb

767.908

Nuri Pasha's Visit to Europe.

Nuri Pasha, the Prime Minister, left by air-plane for Damascus on December 15th en route to Turkey. He took with him the Director General of Finance and Director of the Commercial Department of the Ministry of Finance, because the object of this visit to Angora is to conclude a treaty of commerce and bon voisinage between Turkey and Iraq. The Opposition papers are not pleased with this trip of the Prime Minister, blaiming that his presence is not needed either in Geneva nor in Angora and that he is spending Government money for his own pleasure without any thought of the State.

The Iraqi Superstition.

At the present time in the criminal court, there is a trial going on which shows the superstitious character of the people. Some weeks ago a young student, who was suffering from a serious illness, was taken by his mother to a charlatan Shaikh for treatment. The shaikh alleged that the boy was possessed of an evil spirit and beat him so severely in attempting to drive the evil spirit out that he died from his injuries.

The

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 867.9111/346 FOR Report #-

FROM Istanbul (Allen) DATED Jan.27,1932

TO NAME

1—1127 o.r.c

767.90G/4

REGARDING: Turkish-Iraqi Treaty relations.
Press announcement that on Jan. 10, Nuri Pasa, Prime Minister of Iraq, and Turkish Minister of Economy signed at Ankara a treaty of commerce, a treaty of establishment and a treaty of extradition.

leb

Turkish Minister of Economy signed at Ankara a treaty of commerce, a treaty of establishment and a treaty of extradition. Nothing is said by the press as to the nature of these treaties but they apparently follow the lines followed in similar treaties with other powers. The Prime Minister pronounced himself highly pleased and left for Geneva on January 15, having announced previously that he had exacted from the Minister of Foreign Affairs a promise to visit Bagdad while en route back from Persia.

Treaties Signed

767.90g

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 867.9111/349 FOR report #

FROM Istanbul (Allen) DATED Feb. 26, 1932
TO NAME

1—1127 ...

REGARDING: Ankara announced that the treaties of commerce and extradition recently concluded with Iraq had been sent to the Assembly for ratification.

las

767.906 15

767.906

Iraq.

Ankara announced on February 13 that the treaties of commerce and extradition recently concluded with Iraq had been sent to the Assembly for ratification. When the Assembly convened on February 15 these treaties were referred to the committee on foreign affairs.

Treaties Sent to Assembly

767.90g

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.90G/6

SEE 890g.00/183 FOR #155

FROM Iraq (Sloan) DATED March 17, 1932

TO NAME

1—1127

REGARDING: The Chamber of Deputies ratified on March 12, a Treaty of Bon Voisinage, an Extradition Treaty and a Commercial Treaty with Turkey, all of which had been signed by Nuri Pasha at Ankara on January 9, 1932.

Certain deputies attacked the Commercial Treaty claiming it did not procure for Iraqi commodities preference in the Turkish markets.

767.909

las

767.90g
267.90g
667.90g31

A. E. TURKISH-IRAQI TREATY.

The Chamber of Deputies ratified on March 12 a Treaty of Non Voisinage, an Extradition Treaty and a Commercial Treaty with Turkey, all of which had been signed by Nuri Pasha at Ankara on January 9, 1932. Certain deputies attacked the Commercial Treaty claiming that while it gave Turkey substantial benefits it did not procure for Iraqi commodities preference in the Turkish markets. However, this opposition was easily overcome and the treaty was ratified after a few moments of debate.

767.90G12 Non-Aggression/6

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767.90G12 Non-Aggression/6
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Name Gerald K Haines

Date 11/21/79

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NOTE

SEE 890g.00/198 FOR #225

FROM Iraq (Sloan) DATED June 3, 1932
TO NAME

1—1127

REGARDING: Certain Kurdish tribes living in Turkish territories near Shaikh Barzan's headquarters had rebelled against Turkish officials, had been defeated and had taken refuge with the Shaikh. The Shaikh would not cooperate with the Government to permit the enforcing of Civil Government in his territory in order that the rebellious Kurdish tribes might be brought to justice.

las

767.90G/7

767.90g

No. 225 - Diplomatic. Baghdad, June 5, 1932.

Subject: The Campaign Against Shaikh Barzan and Public Opinion as to these operations.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to various despatches concerning the operations against Shaikh Ahmad Barzan and especially to confidential despatch - Diplomatic series - No. 205 dated May 6, 1932, and to make a further report on these operations and upon public opinion as to their necessity.

During May various columns of the Iraq army operating against Shaikh Barzan seem to have suffered very little opposition in their marches through his territory.

One

Once or twice sniping parties have fired on the columns but have caused little damage; however, Barzan tribesmen have taken every opportunity to fire upon the Royal Air Force planes operating over various sections of their territory.

The public has been informed in several official communiques that the army is now occupying about two-thirds of Shaikh Ahmad Barzan's territory, which is estimated to be about 150 miles in length and 80 miles in width.

The Department has been informed of the death of an Iraqi flyer and his mechanician in this campaign and of the death of various British pilots operating in that territory. During last week another British plane of 55 Squadron crashed against a mountain side and the pilot, the observer and the mechanician were all killed.

The opposition press has been making some pertinent observations as to the necessity for this campaign but have been expressing their views in much more guarded terms than formerly, due to Government policy of suppressing various opposition newspapers and in one case of deporting an editor and one of his writers. However, various members of the Chamber of Deputies have been more open in their criticism of Government. These members seemingly do not understand why such an expensive campaign should be undertaken in view of the depleted resources of the national treasury. One member finally mustered up sufficient courage to demand from the Prime Minister an explanation of Government's reason for initiating this campaign and at the same time demanded to

know

knew whether or not Government had attempted to arbitrate prior to using force. The Prime Minister gave to the Chamber in answer to the member's demand the following explanation of the situation; Shaikh Ahmad Barzan had for a long time been accustomed to forcing his will upon neighboring tribes and had compelled compliance with his orders by sending raiding parties into neighboring territories, devastating the villages and slaying their inhabitants. Moreover, certain Kurdish tribes living in Turkish territories near Shaikh Barzan's headquarters had rebelled against Turkish officials, had been defeated and had taken refuge with the Shaikh. The Turkish Government had requested the Iraq Government to compel their rebellious subjects to return to Turkey and the Iraq Government had determined that that should be done. Shaikh Ahmad Barzan was informed that the Iraq Government had determined to establish Civil Government in his territories and had promised to the Shaikh and his brothers full protection provided they agreed to leave their territories for one or two years while such Civil Government was being established. The Shaikh refused to permit Government to carry out its plans and consequently there was nothing to do but to use force.

In despatch - Diplomatic Series - No. 205, dated May 6, 1932, the Department was informed that Captain Holt, the Oriental Secretary to the High Commissioner, had persuaded Shaikh Ahmad Barzan to release two British flying officers whom he had captured. Upon Captain Holt's return to Baghdad, the Prime Minister issued an official communique stating that he had discussed the general

situation

situation with Shaikh Ahmad Barzan and had obtained the Shaikh's promise to come to Baghdad and discuss matters with the competent officials. Up to the present time the Shaikh has not carried out his promise and I was informed recently by Wing Commander Graham, the officer in charge of British Intelligence in Iraq, that the Shaikh was fearful for his life if he ventured beyond the boundaries of his domains and places no dependence upon either Iraq or British promises. In this connection it should be recalled that in 1909 the Shaikh's father was promised protection if he would come within Turkish Government territory to confer with Turkish officials as to certain matters then in dispute, but that after the conference, as he and his followers were preparing to mount their horses and return to their homes, they were fired upon by some hundreds of Turkish soldiers lying in wait upon house tops in the vicinity and all were killed.

It is impossible to state at the present time whether or not the campaign against Shaikh Ahmad Barzan will be terminated in the near future. The Shaikh has been driven from all towns in the territory he has controlled and is now compelled to take refuge in caverns in some very mountainous country near the Turkish frontier. While it is reported in Baghdad that he has finally been convinced of the impossibility of further resisting Government forces, it is probable that if he is so suspicious of British and Iraqi honor as his present conduct indicates that he will resist as long as possible. In that case, since the mountainous country in which he has taken refuge is so rugged as to prohibit the movement of large bodies of troops, it

is quite probable that the campaign will be dragged on until next winter season when all operations must of necessity cease. In the meantime the various columns of the Iraq army operating in his territory are building roads which can be used for army transport. Numerous police posts have also been constructed and are now occupied by small detachments, and the Ministry of Interior has established its officials in almost every town of the Shaikh's territory.

Respectfully yours,

Alexander K. Sloan.

File No. 800.
AKS/skl.

Copy to:

American Embassy, London.
American Embassy, Istanbul.
N. I. C., Paris.

A true copy of the signed original.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 867.9111/366 FOR Report #-

FROM Istanbul (Allen) DATED June 17,1932
TO NAME 1—1127 e.r.

REGARDING: Turkish-Iraq Treaty.
Assembly ratified a -- on June 4. Treaty may be the treaty of sojourn and extradition.

767.906/8

leb

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.90G/9

SEE 867.044/165 FOR #333

FROM Turkey (Sherrill) DATED Jan.23, 1933

TO NAME

1—1127 o.r.o.

REGARDING:

Turco-Iraq Convention of Establishment.

Copies of LA LEGISLATION TURQUE containing notice of ratification of -.

Wi

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.90G/10

SEE 890g.00 General conditions/15 FOR #201

FROM Iraq (Knabenshue) DATED Oct.5, 1933
TO NAME

1—1127

REGARDING:

Relations of amity and friendship now existing between Iraq and Turkey.

Newspaper article on -.

Wi

while in Baghdad and in Mosul by the Government of Iraq, by the people, and especially by King Ghazi. He said, among other things: "I swear before God that I and my brothers the Barzanis are ready to offer their property and their lives to advance the cause of this country." He further stated that he was returning to his tribe for the purpose of settling them in the Zeibar area.[1]

TURCO-IRAQI RELATIONS.

Al-Alam ul-Arabi of September 14, 1933 and Al-Istiklal of September 27, 1933 published articles dwelling with satisfaction on the relations of amity and friendship now existing between Iraq and Turkey, as exemplified by sympathetic comments in the Turkish press, notably in the "Hakimiet Millet" of Ankara, and the sympathy shown by the Turks toward Iraq after the death of King Faisal. Nothing in this friendly attitude of the Turks astonishes the editor of Al-Istiklal because, he says, "the peoples of the Near East are united by a bond of common interest in defending themselves against the imperialistic ambitions of the West."

767.90f

1 Al-Alam ul-Arabi, September 29th.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 890g.00 General Conditions/50 FOR #460

FROM Iraq (Knabenshue) DATED Mar.20,1935

TO NAME 1—1127

767.90G/11

REGARDING: Turkish-Iraqi relations.
The Wali of Jazireh Ibn Omar, Military Commander of the area, and other Turkish officials visited Iraqi Govt. officials in Zakho recently.
Iraqi Minister to Turkey left Baghdad on March 7 for Ankara with detailed instructions in regard to a proposed commercial treaty.

lec

I

POLITICAL EVENTS

Turkish Officials Visit Zakho

The Wali of Jazireh Ibn Omar, the Military Commander of the area and other Turkish officials visited Iraqi Government officials in Zakho returning the recent visit of the Kaimakam of Zakho and other Iraqi officials to Turkish territory.[1]

767.90g

Comment: Routine visits. No importance is attributed to them.

King Ghazi Congratulates Kemal Ataturk

On the occasion of the reelection of Kemal Ataturk to the Presidency of the Turkish Republic, King Ghazi wired him congratulations. Kemal Ataturk, alias Ghazi Mustafa Kemal, acknowledged the message by a suitable reply.[2]

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.90Q /12

SEE 890g.021/10 FOR #709

FROM Iraq (Moose) DATED Oct.14, 1936

TO NAME

1—1127

REGARDING:

Report that Iraqi Foreign Minister took part in negotiations for establishment of closer relations between Great Britain and Turkey.

Wi

Baghdad, October 14, 1936.

No. 709 - Diplomatic

Subject: Return of Minister of Foreign Affairs to Baghdad

CONFIDENTIAL

890.1120/6068

noted 767.9.g

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that on Sunday, October 11, 1936, Saiyid Nuri As-Said, Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs returned to Baghdad, accompanied by his wife and son.

Saiyid Nuri was brought to Baghdad from Aleppo by a British Royal Air Force plane.

At a dinner given by the German Minister last night, Saiyid Rustum Haidar, Rais of the Royal Diwan, admitted that the Iraqi Foreign Minister, while in Istanbul, had taken part in negotiations aiming to establish closer

cooperation

cooperation between the British and Turkish Governments. Just what Saiyid Nuri's role was could not be determined.

Respectfully yours,

JSM:MH
File No.802.1/710

Charge' d'affaires ad interim
James S. Moose, Jr.

A true copy of the signed original. MN.

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Istanbul, Turkey, May 6, 1937.

No. 266

Subject: Visit of Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs to Turkey.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
MAY 28 1937

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
MAY 27 1937
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

767.90G/13

767.90G

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that Mr. Nadji Al-Asil, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Iraq has just completed a nine-day official visit to Turkey: he arrived in Ankara from Baghdad, via Aleppo, on April 26. He remained in the capital until April 29, after which date he paid a four-day visit to Istanbul and departed on May 3rd, retracing his steps to Baghdad.

Mr. Al-Asil's visit has made the occasion for the expression, both in public utterances and in the press, of the somewhat exaggerated cordiality of sentiment which has become usual in Turkey when the statesmen of neighboring friendly countries are

received.

FILED
MAY 28 1937

received. Furthermore, he was accorded military guards of honor on his arrival at and departure from Ankara and was furnished with a special train for the journey from Ankara to Haydar Pasha where he was met by civil and police officials and a detachment of the military. Similar arrangements were made for his departure from both Istanbul and Ankara.

His complimentary remarks concerning Turkey's capital city, made to the press shortly after his arrival in Istanbul, may be considered as illustrative of the atmosphere in which the visit was passed: "I can tell you but little, for I am still under the grandiose impression which Ankara has made upon me. I can say, however, that any nation which possesses both Ankara and Istanbul must most certainly be happy".

As regards business transacted and views exchanged during the time that the Iraqi statesman was in Turkey, an official communiqué issued on April 29 gives the following information: Mr. Al-Asil was received by the President and had several conversations with the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, during which it was "agreed with satisfaction" that the peaceful policies followed by their respective governments were those which "best serve their common ideal". The conferees, it was stated, were "happy to see the development, in an atmosphere of perfect sincerity and mutual confidence, of the excellent relations which exist between the two friendly countries". They were described as also "happy to see" the peoples of the Arab countries which were separated from the Turkish Empire as a result of the war "expanding into

full

full sovereignty", and they decided to continue their policies of friendly cooperation with those countries for the good of all concerned.

Since the tripartite treaty of June 5, 1926, whereby Great Britain, Turkey and Iraq undertook, inter alia, to recognize and maintain peace along the Turco-Iraqi frontier as defined by the Council of the League on October 29, 1924, had expired, advantage was taken of the presence in Ankara of Mr. Al-Asil to render effective a decision previously reached by negotiations in Baghdad to prolong that part of the treaty (Chapter II) which had to do with the creation and functioning of a Boundary Commission. Dr. Aras and Mr. Al-Asil provided for the desired extension by an exchange of notes (translations of which are now in preparation).

If it may be said that prominence was given to any particular aspect of Turkey's foreign policy at the time of Mr. Al-Asil's visit, it is believed that that aspect was Turkey's desire to call attention to the fact that it entertains only the friendliest esteem for her Arab neighbors -- with the implication, of course, that this is particularly true in regard to Syria.

No official mention was publicly made of the projected quadripartite pact among Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan.

Respectfully yours,

J. V. A. MacMurray.

Copies to Baghdad, Beirut and Teheran.

030
JLB:mej

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 767.90g 12 Non-aggression/37 FOR #272

FROM Turkey (MacMurray) DATED May 19, 1937
TO NAME

1—1127 GPO

767.90G/14

REGARDING:

Eastern Non-aggression Pact.

Comments on question of whether the - will be signed during forthcoming visit of the Turkish Foreign Minister to Baghdad and Teheran.

Wi

Istanbul, Turkey, May 19, 1937.

No. 878

Subject: Visit of the Turkish Foreign Minister to Bagdad and Teheran; the Four Power (Eastern) Non-Aggression Pact.

CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

767.90Z

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department that on May 8, 1937, LA REPUBLIQUE carried the following news item below a Teheran date-line: "The press announces that M. Hikmet Aras will come to Teheran at the end of May; it emphasizes that after the signature of the Saadabad treaties his visit will be made the occasion of demonstrating the community of views of the two countries."

Rumors in this respect have been current in Turkey for some weeks. Apparently informed opinion differs sharply as to whether or not the much publicized Quadripartite Pact of Non-Aggression among Turkey,

Iraq,

711.91 Pol 12 - Near East/37

Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan will or will not be signed during the forthcoming visit of the Turkish Foreign Minister to Baghdad and Teheran (and possibly also to Moscow). The matter appears to depend upon the reaching, prior to the arrival of Dr. Aras, of a satisfactory solution of the outstanding differences between Iraq and Iran, particularly in regard to the disputed Shatt-al-Arab boundary -- a question which has long vexed Irano-Iraqi relations, but which is now said to be demonstrating satisfactory progress toward an eventual solution. Dr. Aras will no doubt lend his good offices to accelerate a satisfactory disposal of the boundary question if, as seems probable, the matter is still in abeyance during the course of his visits.

Now that the much publicised Four-Power Pact seems to be approaching signature, some interest is being evinced among diplomatic circles in Turkey as to what countries may eventually become parties thereto, and what the reactions of Britain and the U. S. S. R. may be said to be, in general, toward the rapprochement of these countries of the Near East.

As regards the first point, such information as the Embassy has been able to obtain indicates that the Pact, when first signed, will not include any countries other than Turkey and those originally invited by it to participate, i. e., Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan, but that, in the words which Dr. Aras is reported as having used to the Iraqi Foreign Minister, when the question was raised during the latter's recent visit, "it is desired to extend the benefits deriving from the Pact to any neighboring countries caring to adhere after the Pact

has

has been concluded". It is anticipated that Saudi Arabia, Egypt and eventually Syria, may ultimately be found in this latter category.

As regards British and Soviet reactions to the Pact, the former is more apparent and more readily evaluated. The fact that Iraq has consistently, for approximately two years, been considered as an eventual signatory, may be construed as prima facie evidence of Great Britain's acquiescence -- an attitude at least not incompatible with its reported support, particularly in 1955 and 1956, of the several bi-lateral "Arab treaties" by which it was thought to be bidding for Arab good will in the countries of the "Empire's back door", between the Mediterranean and India. In so far as direct relations between Great Britain and Turkey are concerned, there is apparent no hint of restraint, such as might be remarked if the former had opposed the Pact.

Such opportunities as have presented themselves to the Embassy to ascertain with any degree of accuracy the Soviet reaction to the treaty, have disclosed only that the U. S. S. R. has refrained from making any official pronouncement on the subject and has, in general, adopted a non-committal, if somewhat un-enthusiastic, attitude. The Embassy has learned, in this respect, from a usually reliable Turkish source, that when this matter was recently mentioned to Dr. Aras by a newspaper correspondent he is said to have replied, "Turkey has no need to obtain the advance approval

of

of Soviet Russia when negotiating treaties - but we have no reason to believe that it would object if asked to express its views".

The pact does not represent any startling new departure in Turkey's foreign policy. It is definitely in the spirit of the Balkan Entente, and complements in Asia the steps toward non-alignment which Turkey has already taken in Europe. Probably because Turkish relations with her neighbors to the east and south have been excellent, the Eastern Pact has not been hurried, but has been allowed to work itself out slowly. For that reason, also, the negotiation of the Pact has failed, in its several steps, to arouse in Turkey the same interest and comment as has been aroused elsewhere, notably in the European press.

Respectfully yours,

J. V. A. MacMurray.

Copies sent to: London, Paris, Moscow, Cairo, Teheran, Beirut and Calcutta.

710/715

JLB:mmj

1645

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.90G/15 1/2

SEE 767.90g12 Non-aggression/39 FOR #796

FROM Iraq (Knabenshue) DATED May 13, 1937

TO

NAME

1—1127 GPO

REGARDING: Visit of the Iraqi Foreign Minister to Turkey.

Report on -.Encloses newspaper clipping stating that the Turkish Foreign Minister will return the visit and comments on connection of visit with signature of the Eastern Pact. Copy of announcement of prolongation of the tri-partite treaty of June 5, 1926, also enclosed.

Wi

767.90g

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 890g.00 General conditions/101 FOR #790

FROM Iraq (Knabenshue) DATED May 7, 1937

TO NAME

1—1127 GPO

REGARDING: Arrival in Baghdad of the Turkish economic mission.

767.90G/16

9/

Wi

THE TURKISH ECONOMIC MISSION ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

The Turkish Economic Mission to Iraq presided by Bai Jamal Husnami has arrived in Baghdad on its return from Iran. The mission was accorded an official reception by the local authorities at the Iraq-Iran frontier. A special compartment was reserved for them for the Khanaqin-Baghdad journey. At the Baghdad North Railway Station the mission was received by the Turkish and the Iranian Ministers at Baghdad and by the Chief of Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A special wing at the Maude Hotel was reserved for them where they expect to stay a few days as the guest of the Iraqi Government.

— Al-Bilad, April 28, 1937.

Cotton

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Baghdad, June 24, 1937.

No. 813 - Diplomatic.

Subject: Visit to Iraq of the Turkish Foreign Minister and Party.

OFFICE OF THE ADVISER ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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767.90G/17

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

767.90G12 Non-Aggression/39

I have the honor to refer to my despatch No. 796 of May 15, 1937, reporting the visit to Syria and Turkey of Dr. Naji Al-Asil, the Iraqi Foreign Minister. As stated in that despatch the Turkish Foreign Minister, Dr. T. Rustu Aras, had announced his intention of repaying this visit, which he is in the act of doing at the present time.

Dr. Aras, accompanied by the Turkish Minister of Economics, Mr. Jalal Bayar, and a number of Turkish bankers and industrialists and also by the Iraqi Minister to Turkey, Sayid Naji Shawkat, arrived at the Northern frontier of Iraq on June 20. The party was given official receptions at the frontier, at Mosul and at Kirkuk.

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Upon

Upon the arrival of the party at Baghdad on June 22nd, they were given an enthusiastic reception, not only officially but also it appears by the populace at large. The city had been beflagged for the occasion and the public buildings had been decorated with electrical displays. After leaving the station they proceeded to the Royal Palace where they are the guests of the Iraqi Government. The usual exchange of calls was made in the morning, and in the afternoon they were received by King Ghazi. That evening a large banquet was given by Dr. Naji Al-Asil, the Foreign Minister, attended by the Chiefs of Diplomatic Missions, Cabinet Ministers, and other Notables. The banquet was followed by a reception in the large gardens of the municipal hall, which had been especially decorated for the occasion.

Last evening the delegation dined with the King and later were the guests of honor at a large reception given by the Turkish Minister in the gardens of his Legation.

The distinguished Turkish visitors arrived at a very embarrassing time for the Iraqi Government due to the resignations of four Cabinet Ministers, which had only become known on the day the party arrived. (See my despatch No. 812 of even date.) 890J.00/413 The presence of the visitors has perhaps resulted in postponing a solution of the political crisis, but it has also given an opportunity for general and public discussion of the Government's difficulties at the two large receptions given in their honor. It should be stated, however, that the four resigning Cabinet members have attended the official receptions given in honor of the Turkish visitors.

It

667.90J 31

It is understood that the visit of the Turkish Minister of Economics is being made in connection with a proposed Turko-Iraqi economic treaty, by which it is hoped to promote trade between the two countries. In view of the political crisis, it is doubtful if the visit of the Turkish Minister will have any concrete result, although it will without doubt be beneficial in cementing the friendly relations of the two countries.

Dr. Aras is expected to leave Baghdad for Teheran tomorrow. It is understood that the Minister of Economics and some of the bankers and industrialists accompanying him will remain in Baghdad a few days longer.

Respectfully yours,

P. Knabenshue.

P. Knabenshue.

JCS:MH
File No. 030

Copies to: American Embassy, Istanbul.
American Legation, Teheran.

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Baghdad, Iraq, July 7, 1937.

A-M/C

No. 821 - Diplomatic

Subject: Conclusion of the Visit to Iraq of the Turkish Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Economics.

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AUG 17 1937
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In D. C. A.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 5 1937
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In conclusion of my despatch No. 813 of June 24, 1937, relating to the visit to Baghdad of a number of Turkish officials headed by Dr. T. Rustu Aras, the Foreign Minister, and including Mr. Jalal Bayar, the Minister of Economics, I have the honor to report that Dr. Aras, accompanied by a number of secretaries, left Baghdad for Teheran on the morning of June 25th. He and his party were flown to Kermanshah, Iran, in an airplane

767.90G/18
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AUG 18 1937

airplane of the British Royal Air Force.

That afternoon, the following communiqué concerning the visit was issued by the Foreign Office:

> "The visit of H.E. the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Rustu Aras, and the members of his party, has caused very great satisfaction in Iraq. During his visit, which extended over three days, His Excellency was received in audience by his Majesty the King, and he had several meetings with the Prime Minister, H.E. Sayid Hikmat Sulaiman, and the Foreign Minister, H.E. Dr. Naji al-Asil. Throughout their conversations, which were conducted in a most sincere and friendly atmosphere, both parties were satisfied that the relations between Iraq and Turkey are steadily progressing, day by day, in sincerity and cordiality.
>
> The representatives of the two nations have also observed with great satisfaction that their policies are identical in their desire to ensure peace and general prosperity. Both wish to encourage mutual co-operation among the nations within the Covenant of the League of Nations. They wish to ensure that treaties between such nations will be respected. Above all, Iraq and Turkey wish to strengthen the ties of friendship among neighbouring States. In general the representatives of Iraq and Turkey are much gratified with the outcome of these conversations."

On June 29th, Mr. Jalal Bayar and the remaining members of the party left Baghdad for the return journey to Turkey by way of Mosul. They were flown as far as the Turkish frontier.

It is reported that before they left Baghdad the Turkish guests were each presented with personal gifts from the Iraq Government as a souvenir of their visit and that the Government sent to Kamal Ataturk, the President of Turkey, a gold cigarette case in Amarah work as a token of esteem.

The political crisis brought about by the resignation of four Cabinet Ministers at the very time the distinguished Turkish visitors were arriving in Iraq was solved the

day

day before Dr. Aras left Baghdad. At a luncheon given in honor of the Turkish officials by the Iranian Minister, at which I was also a guest, it was observed that four places reserved for the four Cabinet members who had resigned were left vacant. The announcement of the appointment of their successors was then made known however, so that at the time the visitors left Iraq the Government was once more functioning normally.

Respectfully yours,

P. Knabenshue.

P. Knabenshue.

File No. 030/800
JCS/jnc.

Copy to American Embassy, Istanbul,
" " American Legation, Teheran.

September 1 1937.

Dear Walter:

767.902/19

Referring to the Embassy's despatch No. 308 of July 28, 1937 regarding Dr. Aras' visits to Baghdad and Teheran and specifically to that part of the despatch in which the possible reasons for the Minister's being accompanied by Celal Bayar and an official of the Sümer Bank were discussed, I was interested to note the following item in a press review from Baghdad:

note 867.51

"AN IRAQI LOAN TO TURKEY

> According to news received from Istanbul and published by the 'Tan', an agreement has been reached between the Iraqi and Turkish Governments whereby the Iraqi Government will loan the Turkish Government one million pounds in return for Turkey's share from the Iraqi oil for a period of fifteen years.
>
> --Al-Istiklal, July 14, 1937."

767.902/19

On the surface of things it would appear that there might be some relation between the subject of this press item and the visit of the Turkish officials in question. Your comment would be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

WALLACE MURRAY

CR

AUG 31 1937.

S. Walter Washington, Esquire,

American Chargé d'Affaires ad interim,

Istanbul, Turkey.

NR RAH/LS

A true copy of the signed original

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 308 Istanbul, July 28, 1937.

Subject: Dr. Aras' Visits to Baghdad and Teheran.

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
SEP 3 1937
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 11 1937
DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

Letter to Mr. Washington
8/30/37
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767.90G/19

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

767.90F

I have the honor to inform the Department that Turkey's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Tevfik Rüştü Aras, left Ankara on June 19th last for the purpose of paying official visits to Baghdad, Teheran and Moscow. His visit to the first capital was probably occasioned in large measure by Turkey's desire to hasten a solution of outstanding differences between Iraq and Iran, and to the second capital to urge a disposal of similar Irano-Afghan differences, thus removing the last obstacles to the signature of the Eastern Pact of Non-Aggression. As reported in the Embassy's despatch No. 299 of July 14, 1937, these tasks were duly accomplished

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767.90G/12 Non-Aggression/45

and

and the Pact was signed during Dr. Aras' visit to Teheran. As his visit to Moscow was undertaken for reasons having no apparent relation to those which prompted his first two calls, it has been dealt with in a separate despatch (No. 310 of July 28, 1937).

Dr. Aras was accompanied as far as Baghdad by Celal Bayar (Minister of Economy), and by an official of the Sümer Bank. Although no definite information is available as to exactly what rôle these latter personages played during the Baghdad visit, rumors are current that they were occupied chiefly in discussing with Iraqi officials problems involving oil production. It would appear, however, as the Iraq Government is not thought to be in a position, because of existing contracts and commitments, to act with complete independence in matters affecting the production or marketing of oil, that these rumors cannot be well founded. It seems more probable that Celal Bey and his banker associate discussed with their Iraqi counterparts, if any such conversations did in fact take place, ways and means of constructing a link to join the Turkish and Iraqi railways - a project announced some months ago as having been approved and agreed upon by both governments. It is of interest in this connection to note that, according to press reports at the time the official announcement was made, the proposed link, apparently by design, will not enter Syrian territory at any point.

After spending several days in Baghdad, Dr. Aras continued his journey to Moscow, via Teheran and the Saadabad Treaty, and Celal Bey and his associate returned to Turkey, having, through their presence, contributed added dignity and

importance to the Turkish delegation, if nothing more.

In discussing the present series of visits, there remains but one further event which seems worthy of note. At Aleppo, while en route from Ankara to Baghdad on June 21, 1937, the Turkish Ministers were welcomed by Turkish sympathizers in the Hatay and were questioned by correspondents of the Syrian press. Dr. Aras profited from the opportunity thus afforded to make a declaration of policy which, by its tone of definiteness and finality, seemed to indicate that as far as Turkey and France were concerned the Sanjak issue was a thing of the past. He counselled the Syrians to adopt the same attitude and to stop their "nonsensical demonstrations", and he promised the Hatayans a "new deal" of the most alluring sort. For once his words were not vague and difficult to interpret, but went straight to the point and were doubtless meant to dispel any doubts which might still linger in Syria as to Turkey's seriousness of purpose in regard to the future of the Sanjak.

Note
751.67
767.90d

Respectfully yours,

S. Walter Washington,
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Copies sent to American Legation, Baghdad,
American Legation, Teheran, and
American Consulate General, Beirut.

030

JLB:mej-kos

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 6 1937
DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

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1937 OCT 6 AM 10 14
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

Istanbul, September 20, 1937.

767.909/19

Dear Wallace:

With reference to your letter of September 1, 1937, referring to the Embassy's despatch No. 308 of July 28, 1937, regarding Dr. Aras' visits to Baghdad and Teheran, and requesting my comment on an item in a press review from Baghdad regarding an Iraqi loan to Turkey, I have this morning talked with the editor of the TAN, which was the paper quoted in the item, and he tells me that the information which he published was only a rumor at the time but that he now considers that there was absolutely no basis for it. In fact the original rumor, according to him, involved the British Government, who was to supply the loan, and it was evidently twisted before it arrived in Baghdad. The story, as published in Baghdad, would seem to be improbable in view of its mentioning the pledge of Turkey's share from the Iraqi oil and the fact that her only interest in this oil, of which I am aware, is the royalty which she receives from Iraq as a result of the agreement of June, 1926, and that this royalty has already been pledged in connection with the arrangements made for payment of the Ottoman public debt bonds (see Embassy's despatch No. 34 of May 12, 1936).

There has been no confirmation of the report made in the Embassy's despatch No. 308 that the Turkish officials discussed ways and means of constructing a link to join the Turkish and Iraqi railways. I have talked

Wallace Murray, Esquire,
Chief, Division of Near Eastern Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C., U. S. A.

767.909/20

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OCT 7 1937

talked with Gillespie regarding your letter and he is of the opinion that an official of the Sümer Bank would have gone to Iraq only with the hope of increasing the sales of Turkish cotton piece goods. This leads me to place some credence in the interpretation of the visit given in the first paragraph on Page 3 of Baghdad's despatch No. 813 - Diplomatic, dated June 24, 1937. Perhaps the prevention of the conversations by the political crisis in Iraq explains why no information regarding them has been forthcoming since this Embassy wrote its despatch No. 308.

I will keep this matter in mind and I do not doubt that I will have an occasion, perhaps when I go to Ankara, to make further inquiries. In fact, I will not hesitate to ask one or two persons, who should be informed, the direct question as to what was accomplished by the Minister of Economy during his trip to Baghdad. I seem to find few occasions in the summer time to see these officials and must wait until we get to Ankara. I will of course forward you any information that I obtain.

Sincerely yours,

767.90g

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.90G /21

SEE 890d.00/727 FOR #1062

FROM Iraq (Knabenshue) DATED June 23, 1938
TO NAME

1—1127 ...

REGARDING: Situation in the Sanjak of Alexandretta.

Comments on Iraq's attitude in condemning France instead of Turkey with respect to -.

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TELEGRAM RECEIVED

DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
APR 22 1939
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FROM

CJ

GRAY

Baghdad

Dated April 21, 1939

Received 8:35 a.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 24 1939
DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

Secretary of State,

Washington.

22, April 21, 10 a.m.

Naji Shawkat, Minister Interior and former Minister to Turkey, leaving today for Ankara for discussions with the Turkish Government in connection with the present international situation. Repeated to Ankara.

KNABENSHUE

PEG

FILED
APR 24 1939

767.90G/22

N/C

CROSS-REFERENCE FILE

NOTE

SUBJECT Iraqi fears of Russia and Turkey;

Reports regarding- since outbreak of hostilities.

mr

767.90G/23

2-3

For the original paper from which reference is taken

See #1396
(Despatch, telegram, instruction, letter, etc.)

Dated Oct. 9, 1939 From / To Iraq (Knabenshue)

File No. 740.0011 European War, 1939/936

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1—1540

Central File: Decimal File 767.90G, Political Relations Of States, Relations; Bi-Lateral Treaties., Turkey And Iraq, July 26, 1930 - Oct. 9, 1939. July 26, 1930 - October 9, 1939. MS Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1930-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States, 1930-1939. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5111394569%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 21 June 2025.